

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the present amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 11, and 20 have been rejected as anticipated by Schenck et al., US 6,076,854. Claims 10, 12, and 13 have been rejected as unpatentable over Schenck et al. in view of Amamori, US 6,502,858. Claims 14-19 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

The Examiner's cooperation during the telephone interview of February 14, 2006 is greatly appreciated. As discussed, Schenck et al. does not disclose the tether releasing in response to inflation fluid pressure in the inflatable vehicle occupant protection device reaching the second inflation fluid pressure, as recited in claims 1 and 20.

In Schenck et al., tethers 22, 24, 26, and 28 are released in response to hot discharge gases of a secondary inflator 34 melting heat-sensitive links 36. (Schenck et al., Col. 2, lines 48-52). In another embodiment, Schenck et al. discloses downward movement of a plate 44 releasing tethers. (Schenck et al., Col. 2, line 58-Col. 3, line 22).

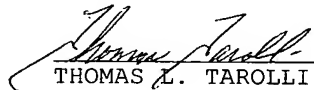
Schenck et al. fails to teach or suggest a tether that is released in response to the inflation fluid pressure in the inflatable vehicle occupant protection device reaching the second inflation fluid pressure as a result of a second mode of operation of an inflation fluid source. Since

Schenck et al fails to teach or suggest this feature of claim 1 and claim 20, claims 1 and 20 patentably define over Schenck et al.

Claims 1 and 20, as well as claims 2-19 which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance. Allowance of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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